

ban gutka and tobacco products. I welcome this good decision of banning these products. According to the estimates made by the NSSO in 1996, 184 million persons were consuming tobacco in India; now the figure would be much more than that. Out of these persons, 150 million were men and 34 million were women. There were 46,660 cases of oral cancer, 8,890 cases of oropharyngeal cancer, 22,360 cases of hypopharyngeal cancer, 17,690 cases of laryngeal cancer and 30,160 cases of oesophageal cancer. All these types of cancer are attributed to the use of non-smoking tobacco products like 'gutka', 'pan masala' and 'khaini'. This decision of the Government will go a long way in fighting out the oral cancer caused by these products. But, mainly, the operation of the ban is under the jurisdiction of the State Governments. Therefore, I would urge upon the Central Government to hold consultations with the State Governments, and all the modalities should be worked out for implementation of the ban. I request the Union Government to take an early decision in this regard.

Sir, this ban does not include cigarettes and bidis which are also of equal concern. According to the estimates of the NSSO in 1996, there were 28,560 cases of lung cancer which are attributed to pollution and smoking. Lung cancer remains on the top of the national scene. I request the Government to take steps to ban cigarettes and bidis also, or, at least, to ensure prevention of smoking in all public places. Thank you.

Denial of Reservation under the Guise of Creamy Layer

SHRI M. P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (Kerala): Sir, I would like to draw the esteemed attention of this august House to the grave situation faced by the Backward Classes, including the minorities, whose reservation in Government Services is at stake. Especially in the State of Kerala, the court verdict regarding the Creamy Layer has been misused for the purpose of denial of reservation envisaged in the Constitution. Actually, the Creamy Layer, as the phrase itself points out, denotes a very thin section of the Backward Classes. There is no justification for denying reservation to the weaker sections misinterpreting the court verdict. But that is what is happening now a days. The previous Government in Kerala had made all efforts to protect reservation and the then Assembly of the State had passed a Bill in this regard. The need of the hour is to work hard for the implementation of Section 16(4) of the Constitution. In Kerala, we are agitating for this purpose and a *jattha* is now being organised by IUML under the leadership of Shri P. K. Kunhalikutty for achieving this genuine aim. Reservation is not an arrangement merely for the protection of a share

in jobs. It is a constitutional device for equal distribution of political power among the oppressed classes. The Central Government should take notice of this state of affairs and ensure necessary action to check misinterpretation of the Creamy Layer and the destruction of the spirit of reservation. The Government should come forward to include reservation of Kerala in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution and thereby protect the spirit of equity and social justice.

SHRI P. N. SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with what he has said. This problem exists in almost all the States.

Re. Demand for a resolution from the Chair on the demise of Shri Nijalingappa

SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE (Karnataka): Sir, I may be pardoned that I am raising this point at this juncture. This is about the demise of Shri Nijalingappa. I expected that the Chair would move a resolution. He was a Member of the Constituent Assembly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will consider it and bring the Obituary Reference tomorrow.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka) : May I submit, Sir, that now this goes on record and tomorrow it will come in the newspapers? I would suggest that even now it is not too late. It can be done today. *Untamjptiorvi*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, it may be done today. As a matter of fact, I thought it had been done yesterday.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, you yourself had gone there. Actually, it was the fault of some of us also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will take up the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Bill, 2000. Mr. Home Minister, please.

Re. The Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Bill, 2000

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक (उत्तर प्रदेश): श्रीमन, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है।

श्री सभापति: किस बात पर ?

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: आप माननीय गृह मंत्री जी को इजाजत दे रहे हैं उत्तर प्रदेश पुनर्गठन विधेयक को विचारार्थ रखने के लिए।